

Message Text

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UNCLAS CARACAS 0690

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, VE

SUBJ: DUTY FREE IMPORTATION OF TIRES

REF: CARACAS 0557

1. SOURCE ATTENDING MONDAY MEETING WITH DR. GARCIA DUQUE STATES THAT MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT IS ABOUT TO ALLOW DUTY FREE IMPORTATION OF SEVEN SIZES OF PASSENGER TIRES: 560 X 13; 155 SR13; 600 X 13; 695 X 14; 635 X 14; 825 X 14; 855 X 15. HOWEVER, GOV WILL LIMIT TOTAL IMPORTATIONS TO 151,000 UNITS OF PASSENGER TIRES. NO INFORMATION OF DIVISION, IF ANY, OF QUOTA AMONG VARIOUS SIZES YET AVAILABLE. ALL SIZES ARE FOR "PRICE REGULATED" SIZE CARS. SOURCE ALSO STATES THAT DUTY FREE IMPORTATION OF TRUCK AND PICKUP SIZE TIRES WILL CONTINUE.

2. TIRES MUST BE SOLD AT LOCAL PRICES. IMPORTATIONS, ACCORDING TO GARCIA DUQUE PRESS RELEASE, CAN ONLY BE MADE DISTRIBUTORS, DEALERS, GAS STATIONS, ETC. TIRE MANUFACTURERS ARE RESTRICTED FROM IMPORTING.

3. POST WILL ADVISE USDOC OF CONFIRMATION AS SOON AS LISTS ARE PUBLISHED BY MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT BY CONSIDERING THREE MONTH LIMIT AND/OR QUOTA ON PASSENGER TIRES, US. TIRE EXPORTERS SHOULD BE ADVISED ASAP OF POSSIBILITY OF SALES OPPORTUNITIES.
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